

FORM B - BUILDINGAssessor's #
65-11USGS Quad
Whitman

Area

Form #
21

Massachusetts Historical Commission
Massachusetts Archives Building
220 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, Massachusetts 02125



Sketch Map

*See continuation sheet*Recorded by **Dempsey/Driemeyer**Organization **Hanson Historical
Commission**Date **April 1996**Town **Hanson**

Place

Address **131 Holmes Street**Historic Name **Hamlin House**Use: Present **residence**Original **residence**Date **before 1830; c. 1750s**Source **maps & White's Houses**Style/Form **Cape**Architect **N/A**

Exterior Material:

Foundation **not visible**Wall/Trim **shingles**Roof **asphalt**Outbuildings **garage**Major Alterations **none**Condition **excellent**Moved **no**Acreage **2.09 acres**Setting **rural residential**

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

The Hamlin House at 131 Holmes Street is a well-preserved, modest, one-and-one-half story Cape. The Cape Cod house was especially popular in Hanson in the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. The five-bay wide by double-pile deep cape exhibits a number of characteristic features. These include the center chimney and a one-story rear service ell, which has been modified by the addition of an enclosed entry porch. A sizable one-story addition in the re-entrant angle between the ell and main mass provides considerable additional interior space. The decorative detailing on this house is unusually modest consisting only of corner boards and flat surrounds on the windows and front entry. A two-car saltbox garage is sited near the front property line. The original rural residential setting is encroached upon by development across the street.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

Throughout much of the nineteenth century Holmes Street was largely undeveloped with the exception of a few eighteenth century houses and a school house. Joseph White indicates Eleazer Hamlin built this house in the early 1750s and occupied it for nearly twenty years. Historic maps indicate Isaac Lowden owned the house by 1830, and according to White he had acquired it from the Hamlin family. Lowden owned the house for over twenty-five years. His daughter married Captain Samuel Briggs, who owned the house by the last quarter of the nineteenth century. The Briggs occupied the house until their deaths at which time the house had a succession of owners. The 1903 historic map does not show this house, but that appears to be a mistake. By the early 1930s Thomas Leake, a farmer, owned the house. A historic photograph (date unknown) shows the house once had a square-bay window on the right lateral wall at the first bay and a shed-roofed barn or shed attached to the ell.

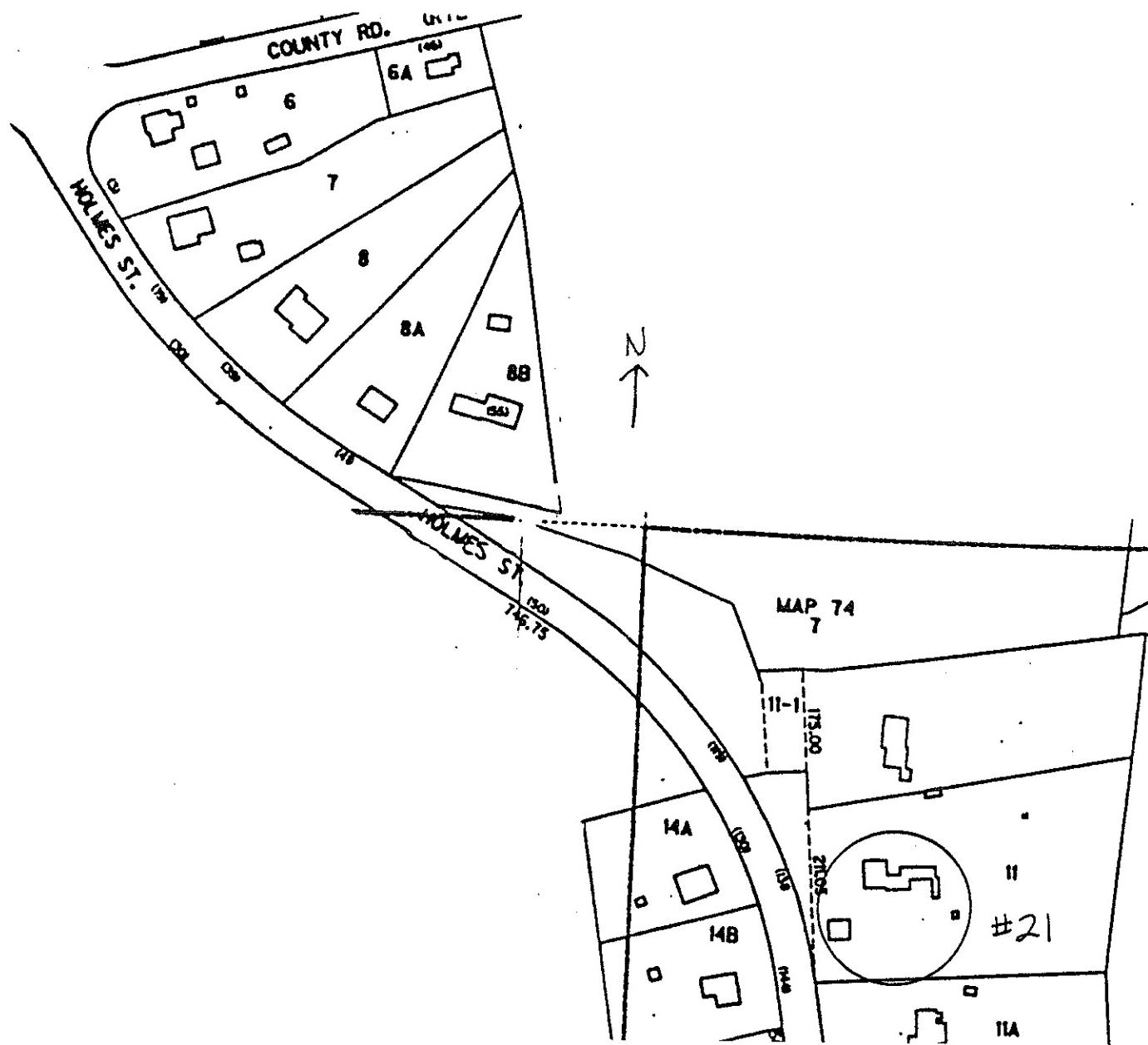
REFERENCES

- Smith, Plan of Hanson, 1830
- Walling, Map of Hanson, 1856
- Walker, Atlas of Plymouth County, 1879
- Richards, Atlas of Plymouth County, 1903
- White, Houses of Hanson
- City Directory, Hanson, 1902-1903

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET
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Community
Hanson
Area

Property Address
131 Holmes Street
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National Register of Historic Places Criteria Statement Form



Check all that apply:

- Individually eligible.
 Contributing to a potential district.

- Eligible only in a historic district.
 Potential historic district.

Criteria: A B C D

Criteria Considerations: A B C D E F G

Statement of Significance by **Dempsey/Driemeyer**.

This property is significant as a well-preserved example of early building patterns in the town of Hanson, in a settlement configuration distinctive to the town and probably the region. Among the best examples of its type in town, it may be individually eligible but should be evaluated for its role in potential districts when its neighbors can be examined more carefully. The property meets criteria A and C at the local level and retains integrity of location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.